

Sanitized - Approved For Release CIA

I Was A Spy For Castro In The CIA

By MARY LOUISE WILKINSON

Reporter of The Miami News

A self-confessed spy for Cuba today said in a tape recording that he had infiltrated the Central Intelligence Agency and was on the verge of being shipped back to Cuba as a CIA agent.

U.S. intelligence is pretty poor, Fernando Jose Fernandez Barcena told Manolo del Canal, in a taped interview for Miami Spanish-language radio station WSAB.

Fernandez, a 32-year-old former Havana newspaperman, made a detailed confession of his work for Castro in this country during a 12-hour session here Sunday with members of the Christian Democratic Movement (MDC).

Following the session, Dr. Laureano Batista, head of the refugee group, said Fernandez was turned over to the FBI here.

"We are conducting an appropriate investigation to determine what, if any credence can be placed in Fernandez' story," The Miami News was told by Wesley Grapp, agent in charge of the Miami FBI office.

As Dr. Batista — who is related to the former Cuban dictator, Fulgencio Batista — told the story:

Fernandez arrived here from Cuba and registered with the Cuban Relief Committee Jan. 15, 1961. He spent some time in Kansas City, then

moved to Miami about six weeks ago.

His job for the Castro government was to infiltrate anti-Castro organizations, learn and transmit their plans to Cuban ambassadors — chiefly those to the United Nations, Mexico — and local agents in the Bahamas and Miami.

His secondary mission was to "soften up" and bring about defection of anti-Castro exiles in the U. S. to try to get them to return to Cuba.

Fernandez said his code name was Heavy Metal and his direct boss was a Cuban living in Nassau, who made frequent trips to Miami.

Dr. Batista said MDC members became suspicious of Fernandez because he was "ambitious" to learn about their plans against Cuba — including early those involving Cuban American training.

Some MDC members employed to watch him, at the counter-espionage move, said

was fed false information about these plans.

As a result, a letter was intercepted in which Fernandez warned it was necessary that Cuba "remain on the alert from Aug. 15 on" — some of the misinformation that had been given him.

When it was learned that Fernandez was making arrangements to go back to Cuba, Dr. Batista said, the MDC decided to make its move.

Since the FBI had earlier informed its members that it had no authority against Fernandez since he had not committed a crime against the U. S., the MDC members decided to question him themselves.

The Sunday session was the

CPYRGHT